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KUZNETSK COMBINE STEPS UP IRON AND STEEL PRODUCTION

/Numbers in parentheses refer to appended sources./

During the past 5 years, the Kuznetsk Metallurgical Combine imeni Stalin increased its production of pig iron 34.8 percent; steel smelting, 21.1 percent; production of rolled steel, 21.1 percent; and ore mining, 69.5 percent. Labor productivity increased 44.8 percent during this period. Kuznetsk metallurgists fulfilled the 1950 plan and produced above plan 42,700 tons of pig iron, 10,200 tons of steel, 21,800 tons of rolled steel, 135,100 tons of iron ore, 26,800 tons of coke, and 1,400 tons of refractories, and saved 19.8 million rubles by reducing production costs.(1)

The combine has pledged to fulfill the 1950 plan ahead of schedule and to produce above plan 30,000 tons of pig iron, 20,000 tons of steel, 25,000 tons of rolled steel, 60,000 tons of iron ore, and 50,000 tons of sinter.(2)

The Kuznetsk Combine fulfilled the 7-month plan in 1951 ahead of schedule and revised its previous pledges for this year. It has now been decided to increase the above-plan pledges to 35,000 tons (from 25,000 tons) of coke, 36,000 tons of pig iron, 23,000 tons of steel, and 30,000 tons of rolled steel. The metallurgical combine also pledged to save 15 million rubles above plan instead of 10 million rubles as previously stated.(3)

During the postwar period, the combine has considerably increased the productivity of the blast-furnace shop. Compared with 1946, the productivity of two blast furnaces has increased 47 percent, without an excessive financial outlay.

The combine is increasing the share of local iron ores in the blast-furnace charge. In the postwar 5-year period, the output of local iron ore was increased almost 2½ times.

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Steel smelting in 1950 increased 22 percent over 1946, exceeding the planned technical capacity by 13 percent. The average daily recovery of steel per square meter of furnace hearth is now 950 kilograms more than in 1945. The operation of open-hearth furnaces with heat-resistant magnesite brick roofs has given superior results. A furnace with a heat-resistant roof produces three times as many melts as a furnace with an ordinary Dinas brick roof. The combine has now organized production of refractory bricks, which will make it possible to reline the roofs of all remaining open-hearth furnaces with this type of brick.

The increased output of steel has naturally caused an increase in the output of rolled steel. During 1950, the rolling mills exceeded the established capacity by 10.3 percent. The blooming mill has reached an especially high degree of productivity, surpassing all other blooming mills in the USSR, not to mention those in the United States. At present, the time required for rolling a steel ingot in the blooming mill is less than a minute. Compared with 1946, the time for rolling steel ingots has been reduced 35 percent. The blooming mill operators exceeded the technical capacity in 1950 by 24 percent.

The Soviet industry is constantly increasing its demand for high-quality types of steel. The share of high-grade alloyed steel in the total output of the combine has been growing steadily. Compared with 1946, the production of this type of metal increased almost 50 percent in 1950. At the same time, consumption of metal per ton of finished rolled product has been lowered.

As a result of more complete utilization of plant capacities, and economical use of raw materials, fuel, and other materials, the combine lowered production costs during the period 1946 - 1950 by 85 million rubles. This made it possible for the combine to decline a state subsidy in 1948 and to become a highly profitable enterprise, giving the state hundreds of millions of rubles in annual accumulations.

In 1951 the output of high-grade alloyed steel has increased 35.6 percent over 1950.(4)

The rail shop of the Kuznetsk Combine recently received a large order for angle iron for the "Volgodonstroy" construction project. In the first 8 hours following receipt of the order, 140 tons of iron were rolled. The order was fulfilled considerably ahead of schedule and the iron was shipped to the construction project.(5)

The Tashtagol Iron Mine in Kemerovo Oblast is the main source of iron ore for the Kuznetsk Metallurgical Combine. The mine was built during World War II and has developed into a very large enterprise, equipped with modern mining machinery. During the first postwar Five-Year Plan, the mine increased its output of ore more than 50 percent. All mining processes are now being mechanized.(6) The mine has increased the average monthly cutting of stopes from 25 to 70 or 80 meters.(7)

SOURCES

1. Moscow, Izvestiya, 10 May 51
2. Leningrad, Leningradskaya Pravda, 12 May 51
3. Moscow, Trud, 2 Aug 51
4. Moscow, Pravda, 2 Aug 51
5. Trud, 7 Jun 51
6. Frunze, Sovetskaya Kirgiziya, 26 May 51
7. Minsk, Sovetskaya Belorussiya, 27 Jun 51

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